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PP RUEHWEB

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P 090949Z MAY 07
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3429
INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 2122
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 4264
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY 1013
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 8331
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 9562
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 3010
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0982

UNCLAS TOKYO 002076

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [XB](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: JAPAN FORMULATING SUGGESTIONS FOR ASIAN DEMOCRACY
PARTNERSHIP

REF: STATE 56424

(SBU) Embassy Political Officer delivered reftel demarche April 27 and followed up May 9 with MOFA Asian and Oceanian Affairs Regional Policy Division Principal Deputy Director Yasuhiro Kobe. Kobe said that the Asian Democracy Partnership (ADP) would be a natural extension of FM Aso's "Arc of Freedom and Prosperity" concept, calling the proposal a "good idea." Japan is committed to supporting democracy in the region, and has ODA programs supporting rule of law and elections in several countries of the region, including Cambodia, Bhutan, and Nepal. Although Kobe was somewhat skeptical about the workability of joint programs, he said that information sharing and coordination between countries would contribute significantly to the success of regional programs. Kobe's office is coordinating a response to the demarche with the Foreign Policy Bureau's Policy Planning Division and several divisions within the International Cooperation Bureau. Japan should be able to make some concrete comments on the proposal within about two weeks, said Kobe.
DONOVAN